

experience of most of us, but we have long desired just such a vivid and intimate picture of this wonderful tropic country as Capt. Beebe has given us.

The title of the little book is explained in the first chapter. The author had played his part in the great struggle that has just come to a close in Europe and after the horrors of war he says "the mind seeks amelioration — some symbol of worthy content and peace — and for my part I turn with all desire to the jungles of the tropics. . . . The peace of the jungle is beyond all telling."

The chapters entitled, 'Sea-wrack' and 'Islands,' cover the voyage to British Guiana with visits to the Lesser Antilles and Barbados; while the others: 'The Pomeroun Trail,' 'A Hunt for Hoatzins'; 'Hoatzins at Home'; 'A Wilderness Laboratory'; 'The Convict Trail'; 'With an Army of Ants "Somewhere" in the Jungle', and 'Jungle Night,' treat of the Bartica District, British Guiana, and that on 'A Yard of Jungle' relates to Para at the mouth of the Amazon. All but three of the chapters have appeared in 'The Atlantic Monthly' and the many who enjoyed reading them there will be glad to have them brought together in the handy volume.— W. S.

Riley on a Collection of Birds from Northeastern Siberia.¹— Mr. Copley Amory, Jr., accompanied the Koren Expedition to the Kolyma River region of northeastern Siberia in 1914 and obtained 228 specimens of birds and a few eggs which were all presented to the National Museum and are here reported upon by Mr. Riley. As Thayer and Bangs had already described a collection made by Mr. Koren on a previous expedition to the same region it was not to be expected that any new forms would be included in the present material, but many notes of interest on plumage and relationship are presented as well as some field notes by Mr. Amory. Seventy-six species are listed and of all but one of these specimens were obtained.— W. S.

Shufeldt on the Skeleton of the Kea Parrot.²— Dr. Shufeldt has had the opportunity of studying the skeleton of a specimen of *Nestor notabilis* recently received at the National Zoölogical Park, in a shipment of nine individuals presented by the New Zealand Government, this individual having died en route. He has prepared ten admirable photographs showing all the portions of the skeleton, and these have been excellently reproduced. There is also a detailed description of the bones, covering thirteen pages, in which there is occasional comparison with *Ara chloroptera* and *Amazona* and with Mivart's figure of the tongue of *Lorius flavopalliatius*.

¹ Annotated Catalogue of a Collection of Birds made by Mr. Copley Amory, Jr., in Northeastern Siberia. By J. H. Riley. Proc. U. S. Nat. Mus., Vol. 54, pp. 607-626. (Issued October 28, 1918.)

² The Skeleton of the "Kea Parrot" of New Zealand (*Nestor notabilis*). The Emu, XVIII, Part 1, July 1, 1918, pp. 25-43.

There is a preliminary review of the arrangement of *Nestor* in relation to other parrots in the classifications of various authors, and we were in hopes that Dr. Shufeldt, with the material at his disposal, would shed some further light on the subject, but upon turning to the conclusions we are disappointed to find only that "the family Nestoridae may now be considered an established fact, in so far as the morphology of *Nestor notabilis* is concerned." However, the plates and detailed description should aid others to make fuller comparisons with skeletons of the supposed allies of *Nestor* when opportunity offers.—W. S.

Murphy's Photographs of South Georgia Birds.—In the American Museum Journal for October, 1918, Mr. Robert C. Murphy has a number of photographs of the birds of South Georgia Island accompanied by explanatory descriptions. Full accounts of these species have appeared in his several papers in 'The Auk' and six of the photographs were previously published in connection with them. Several of those now published have been enlarged and are printed with more extended backgrounds adding much to their appearance.—W. S.

Taverner's Recent Papers on Canadian Birds.¹—In the 'Canadian Alpine Journal,' Mr. P. A. Taverner has published a list of birds secured or observed by the Canadian Geological Survey Expedition, mainly by Mr. Wm. Spreadborough, in Jasper Park, Alberta, during the summer of 1917. Most of the notes deal with species supplementary to Mr. J. H. Riley's list for the same region, published in the Journal for 1912, and they are numbered continuously with it, from 79 to 108. The few notes on species listed by Riley are entered without numbers. There are some interesting remarks on the southward movement of Horned Owls and Goshawks and their destruction of the Grouse, and also some systematic conclusions of interest. The two Song Sparrows obtained on the expedition, topotypes of Riley's *Melospiza m. inexpectata*, are regarded as closest to a series of *merrilli* identified by Oberholser and Mr. Taverner fails to find "the characters described by Riley as characteristic of his new form." The Canada Jays he regards as nearest to *Perisoreus c. fumifrons* if that is a tenable subspecies, certainly nearer to *canadensis* than to *capitalis*. The Flickers were none of them pure, with the *cafer* tendency stronger than the *auratus*.

Another important paper by the same author is on 'The Hawks of the Canadian Prairie Provinces in their Relation to Agriculture.'² This corroborates the results obtained by the investigations of the U. S. Dept. of Agriculture, in that the majority of hawks, with the exception of the Accipiters, are beneficial. The damage done by Gophers both as destroyers

¹ Addenda to the Birds of Jasper Park, Alberta. Canadian Alpine Journal, Vol. IX, 1918, pp. 62-69.

² Museum Bulletin No. 28, Canadian Department of Mines. Biol. Series, No. 7, August, 1918.